

Fiscal TOPICS

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Environment First Fund

The 2000 General Assembly established the Environment First Fund in SF 2453 (FY 2001 Infrastructure Appropriations Act) to provide funding for protection, conservation, enhancement, and improvement of natural resources and established a standing appropriation of \$35.0 million for the Fund beginning in FY 2001 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). The funding levels have fluctuated over the years. The standing appropriation was changed to \$33.0 million for FY 2012, but was increased to \$35.0 million for FY 2013. See funding details below followed by a brief description of major programs.

Environment First Fund Appropriations History

	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
<u>Agriculture and Land Stewardship</u>						
Program						
Conservation Reserve Enhancement	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Watershed Protection	2,550,000	2,550,000	2,550,000	1,500,000	900,000	900,000
Farm Management Demonstration	850,000	850,000	800,000	750,000	625,000	625,000
Agriculture Drainage Wells	1,480,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	0	550,000
Soil Conservation Cost Share	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	1,050,000	6,300,000	6,650,000
Conservation Reserve Program	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,300,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Loess Hills Conservation Authority	580,000	600,000	600,000	500,000	475,000	525,000
So. Iowa Conservation Authority	300,000	300,000	300,000	250,000	0	0
Flood Prevention Study	150,000	0	0	0	0	0
Farm to School Program	80,000	0	0	0	0	0
Soil Conservation Cost Share - Admin	0	0	0	1,751,600	2,000,000	2,550,000
Local Food and Farm Program	0	0	0	0	75,000	0
Iowa FFA Foundation Program	0	0	0	0	25,000	0
State Apiarist Program	40,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship	\$ 16,030,000	\$ 15,800,000	\$ 15,750,000	\$ 9,851,600	\$ 12,400,000	\$ 13,800,000
<u>Department of Natural Resources</u>						
Program						
Resource Enhancement & Protection	\$ 15,500,000	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
Volunteers and Keepers of Land	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Park Operations & Maintenance	2,470,000	2,470,000	2,470,000	2,470,000	3,210,000	3,710,000
GIS Information for Watershed	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
Water Quality Monitoring	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000
Water Quality Protection	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Air Quality Monitoring -Livestock	235,000	0	0	0	0	0
Forestry Management	0	0	0	0	100,000	0
State Park Volunteer Fund	0	0	0	250,000	0	0
Geological Water Survey	0	0	0	0	200,000	200,000
Animal Feeding Operations	360,000	360,000	360,000	608,400	420,000	620,000
Air Quality Monitoring	325,000	325,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000
Database Development	50,000	0	0	0	0	0
Water Quantity	480,000	495,000	495,000	495,000	495,000	495,000
Resource Conservation and Development	300,000	250,000	250,000	150,000	0	0
Global Climate Change	0	50,000	0	0	0	0
Total Natural Resources Capital	\$ 23,470,000	\$ 25,700,000	\$ 25,750,000	\$ 23,148,400	\$ 20,600,000	\$ 21,200,000
<u>Economic Development, Dept. of</u>						
Program						
Brownfields Redevelopment	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Economic Development, Dept. of	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Appropriations	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 42,000,000	\$ 42,000,000	\$ 33,000,000	\$ 33,000,000	\$ 35,000,000

More Information

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee: <http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=33>

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Description of Major Programs

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – provides funds for wetlands development.

Conservation Reserve Program – provides financial incentives to landowners.

Watershed Protection Program – provides funds to target water quality problems.

Soil Conservation Cost Share Program – provides funds for permanent soil and water conservation practices.

Farm Management Demonstration Program – demonstration of crop and livestock management techniques.

Alternative Drainage System Fund – provides cost-share funds to assist landowners with the closure of agriculture drainage wells.

Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund – provides funds to stabilize stream channels and preserve the Loess Hills.

Southern Iowa Conservation and Development Authority – provides funds to stabilize stream channels and prevent soil erosion.

Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund – as specified in statute.

Water Quality Monitoring Program – monitors water quality.

State Parks – maintenance and related activities.

Water Quality Protection Fund – administers the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Water Quantity Program – provides information on water usage.

Air Quality Monitoring Program – monitors air quality.

Animal Feeding Operations Program – provides oversight, technical assistance, and enforcement.

Resource Conservation and Development Program – provides funds to local resource conservation and development groups when a dollar-to-dollar match is provided.

Brownfields Development Program – provides funds to clean contaminated commercial sites.